was US$ 29.5 billion, US$ 35.1 billion, US$ 39.6 billion, US$ 51.0 billion and US$ 67.0 billion respectively. The entire foreign currency assets of the country are invested in approved foreign securities and in deposits of foreign central and commercial banks and the Bank for International Settlements.

(d) Net returns on foreign currency assets and gold during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 4.6 per cent, 6 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively.

Compensation to States over implementation of VAT

671. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to- state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have decided not to give 100 per cent compensation to States while switching over to VAT which starts from April, 2003; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of India would compensate the revenue loss, if any, upon introduction of VAT by the States at the rate of 100 per cent in the first year (2003-04), 75 per cent in the second year (2004-05) and 50 per cent in the third year (2005-06), based on an agreed formula.

Outstanding dues against Essar Power Ltd.

672. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Essar Power Ltd. has defaulted on the payment of principal and interest thereon of the I.F.C.I, since 2000;

(b) if so, what are the details of the outstanding dues against the company at present; and

(c) whether recovery proceeding against the company has been initiated by I.F.C.I. and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The IFCI Limited has reported that the Essar Power Ltd. had committed default in payment of interest and principal to IFCI. IFCI has approved a substantive restructuring proposal in August/September, 2002 in terms of which the company was to make an upfront payment of Rs. 19.79 crore towards part payment of overdues by 15.10.2002. The Company has cleared the entire amount of Rs. 19.97 crore.

(b) In accordance with the practice and usages customary among the banks, and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, information in respect of the constitutents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(c) The IFCI Ltd. has issued a notice to the company advising them to clear other instalments, failing which IFCI Ltd. shall be constrained to revoke the package, restore the liability and take legal action for recovery of dues.

BPL population

673. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has lauded India's progress in poverty reduction during the last decade;

(b) if so, the percentage of India's population living below poverty line in 1991 and the percentage of Below Poverty Line in 2002; and

(c) what percentage of population below poverty line is likely to be achieved at the end of Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.